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INFO RUEHXX/ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE
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RHMFISS/CDR USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE
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RUEHTRO/AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI 6036

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 TRIPOLI 000924

NOFORN SIPDIS

DEPT FOR NEA/MAG E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/19/2019

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SUBJECT: LIBYAN SUCCESSION: QADHAFI ORCHESTRATING THE BOYS' HIGH WIRE ACT? REF: A) TRIPOLI 883; B) TRIPOLI 685; C) TRIPOLI 212; D) 08 TRIPOLI 6

CLASSIFIED BY: Gene A. Cretz, Ambassador, U.S. Embassy Tripoli, Department of State. REASON: 1.4 (b), (d)

1.(S/NF) Summary: Muammar al-Qadhafi's recent appointment of his son Saif al-Islam as "General Coordinator" and attendant indications of a succ
SAIF'S RETURN FROM THE COLD

2.(S/NF) Muammar al-Qadhafi's October 6 speech to Revolutionary Committee members in Sebha marked the peak of a remarkably resurgent six weeks

3.(S/NF) Saif's slide was juxtaposed with younger brother Mutassim's rise, with the latter completing a state visit to Russia in October 2008 (WHAT SAIF'S RETURN MEANS FOR MUTASSIM

4.(S/NF) As Saif's star rises again, local observers are turning their eyes toward Mutassim for a reaction. Mutassim has time and time again ev

5.(S/NF) Simultaneous with Saif's apparent ascendancy, Mutassim has moved in an uncharacteristically quick manner to reengage on the U.S. file.

THE SUCCESSION QUESTION - WILL IT BE SAIF OR MUTASSIM?

6.(S/NF) Contacts suggest that although Mutassim is not as skilled in public relations as his older brother Saif, he wields significant power f
COMMENT

7.(S/NF) As Libya undergoes this latest round of Qadhafi's political restructuring, without a constitution or clarified succession plan, burgec